



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

March 7, 2012

7:30 p.m.

City Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Donna Fossum, Kevin Posey, Phil Voorhees, Louisa Ward, and Justin Wilson

Staff Present: Karen Callaham – T&ES, Jeff Farner – P&Z, Steve Kaii-Ziegler – P&Z, Abi Lerner - T&ES, Jim Maslanka - T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Susan Gygi – T&ES

A quorum being present, the Chair called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:33pm.

1. February 1, 2012 Minutes

The Chair asked if there were any comments, additions or corrections to be made to the February minutes. Commissioner Fossum offered editorial corrections of the minutes. There being no further corrections or additions to the minutes, Commissioner Wilson motioned for the minutes to be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ward and unanimously approved.

2. Funding Update

T&ES staff, Abi Lerner reported:

City Council Council approved funding for Alexandria portion of a High Capacity Transit study for Route 7 Corridor; approved allocation of \$600,000 for funding of the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station EIS; and held a work session with DASH.

Commonwealth Transportation Board Passed a resolution authorizing the Commissioner of VDOT to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with Department of the Army, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the City to execute roadway improvements at Mark Center.

WMATA WMATA's Board received comments from the Tri-State Oversight Committee regarding safety at WMATA. Fare increase hearings were held from Feb 27-March 7, 2012.

NVTC Held a joint meeting with NVTa on Feb 9, 2012 to discuss legislative issues and to pass regional application of Department of Rail and Public Transit (DRPT) funds. Discussed proposal to include Loudoun County into WMATA after Dulles Phase 2 is completed.

NVTa Participated in a joint meeting with NVTC discussing legislative issues.

3. Transportation Budget Overview

Staff gave an update on changes made to the FY 2013- FY 2022 City Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) discussed in Council's transportation budget work session. As a result of the changes, there is a revised net increase of \$38.2 million over the approved FY 2012-2021 CIP. The proposed Operating Costs for the FY 2013 – FY 2022 Transportation Improvement Plan produced significant increases from the FY2012-FY2022 in Transit Corridor "A" Operations, Transit Corridor "C" Operations, and DASH Bus Expanded Service. The changes in Expanded Trolley, Circulator, Transit Service and Transportation Implementation Staff experienced minimal increases. There was discussion among Commissioners about the Complete Streets Design Manual, and the In-Step (Traffic Calming) program, and when they might be included in the budget.

4. Potomac Yard Metrorail Station

Staff gave an update and reported on the potential impacts to wetland areas, construction impact and access with regard to the station footprint, track work and the auxiliary facilities. Also discussed were the cost, functionality and appearance of the three alternatives. Next steps include an environmental assessment and impact analysis for social, economic, environmental and transportation effects. The Environmental Impact Statement public meeting is scheduled for April 29 at Cora Kelly Recreation Center from 7-9 pm.

5. King Street Metrorail Design – PUBLIC HEARING

Staff gave a timeline on the concept process to update, expand and make the King Street Metrorail Station safer for pedestrians which began in 2006. In 2008, the WMATA feasibility study estimated a cost of \$4.2 million. Since 2006, the City has been gathering RSTP and CMAQ funds to cover the cost. The preliminary concept was reviewed with internal and external stakeholders at many public meetings. As a result, a series of design enhancements evolved. These enhancements added significant costs to the budget. Currently, the total project budget for this project is \$6.95 million. A 60% Design would cost \$8.1 million. The City, WMATA, and its consultants developed two alternative designs, which would defer or eliminate some features previously requested by stakeholders to lower costs. After comments from Commission members and the public, Commissioner Fossum moved to approve an amended version of Option 1 that includes eliminating a 6 phase project and keeping it as 2 phases, keeps the Kiss & Ride area, Dynamic Message Boards, reduces the size of sidewalk to fit what WMATA will allow next to tracks, have all sidewalks stamped concrete including King Street, and ensure a pedestrian crossing across King Street at the existing light at Cameron Street. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Voorhees and unanimously approved by the Commission.

6. Beauregard Small Area Plan (Transportation) – PUBLIC HEARING

Staff gave a summary of all that has transpired in the Beauregard Small Area development plan. Staff reported the planning process has been underway since the summer 2010. Citizen input was received during public meetings given by the Beauregard Corridor Stakeholder Group (BCSG). Five separate developers went through a planning process for the redevelopment of their properties over a 30 year phasing period, and also held a number of public meetings. The City conducted the necessary traffic analysis for existing conditions (2010), the 2035 baseline conditions (regional growth, approved and un-built development), and 2035 Market Demand conditions (proposed development). Two separate City transportation documents have been completed, as a result of the traffic analysis and citizen input. The City's Chapter 527 Draft Report has been submitted to VDOT, and is currently

responding to comments received from VDOT. The second report, the Beauregard Small Area Plan Transportation Study, has been completed. The BCSG provided individual citizen recommendations for the Beauregard Small Area Plan (Plan) which staff reviewed, and incorporated or modified into a draft plan that was released January 23, 2012. Since the release of the draft plan, a number of community meetings have been held, in addition to a joint Planning Commission/City Council work session, to present the recommendations, including the transportation recommendations, and answer questions. Staff provided an overview of the transportation element of the Draft Small Area Plan. After the public hearing was closed, staff asked the Commissioners for input to be provided to Council. Commissioner Wilson stated that because Transportation Commissioners were not involved with prior BCSG and developer public meetings and the Beauregard Small Area Plan processes, and it was unclear what the role of the Commission is, Commission discussions should be continued at a future meeting. Abi Lerner clarified that the role of the Commission is to ensure that the recommendations in the SAP are consistent with the City's Transportation Master Plan.

7. Staff Updates

Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway - The City received a grant for the Crystal City/Potomac Yard Transitway totaling \$8.5 million. The grant will be allocated for the design/build of the Route 1 Bus Rapid Transitway (BRT) between Potomac Avenue and East Glebe Road. Construction of the transitway is anticipated to begin mid-2012 and will be coordinated with the widening of Route 1 northbound lanes being completed as part of the Potomac Yard Development. The project is anticipated to be completed by late 2013.

8. Commission Updates

No updates.

9. Other Business

No other business.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 10:45p.m., seconded and unanimously accepted.